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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. African Community Resource Centre

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

African Community Resource Centre (ACRC) is a Los Angeles-based non-profit organization committed to assisting and empowering African refugees and immigrants to become economically self-sufficient, acculturated, socialized and healthy. It furnished a range of programmes and emergency, social and referral services, often in collaboration with other community-based organizations, social service providers and health organizations. Its services are available to all people regardless of race.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

(a) Fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, in February and March 2006 and 2007, in New York, focusing on African women and children in human trafficking and slavery, and on domestic violence, respectively; and (b) fifty-second session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, in February and March 2008, in New York, focusing on financing for gender equality and empowerment of women.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: ACRC developed and runs Refugee Safe Haven, a transitional shelter for African women and their children who are victims of domestic violence. It has served such victims from 37 different countries over the past six years.

Goal 3: Through its Healthy African Families Programme, ACRC informs women about the educational opportunities available in the community.

Goal 4: Through the same programme, ACRC informs newly arrived African refugees and immigrants how to access health and mental services, and of their eligibility to obtain social benefits and housing, and disease prevention services.

Goal 5: Also through the same programme, ACRC provides events and classes aimed at informing newly arrived African refugees and immigrants about access to maternal health services etc.

2. Aleut International Association

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

Aleut International Association, an Alaskan Native non-profit organization, seeks to establish close ties between the Alaskan and Russian Aleut communities for the protection of their shared environment, the preservation of their cultural heritage and the strengthening of good-neighbour relations.

The Aleut People, or Unangan, currently number approximately 8,000, about one eighth of whom live in the Russian Federation, mostly on the Commander Islands. The fur trade in the middle of the eighteenth century served to decrease their population and forced transmigration during the next century permanently separated their communities and relatives. Today, Aleut people in both countries are uniting in an effort to secure their right to determine their lifestyle, culture and economy.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

AIA representatives attended and participated in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in November and December 2005, in Montreal, Canada, where they emphasized their vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and its impacts.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Together with the United Nations Environment Programme collaborating centre, GRID-Arendal, AIA worked in the period 2007-2008 to establish a community-based monitoring system to track environmental changes in the Bering Sea.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

During 2005: Testing for the presence of persistent organic pollutants in Aleut women and children on the Commander Islands, measuring contaminant levels and following the babies for a year to determine health effects, and conducting a dietary survey of mothers to compile information on contaminants, and identify health benefits of eating traditional foods.

During 2006: Project to produce an annotated, searchable bibliography of Aleut ethnobotany. Also, undertook a two-year project in the period 2006-2007 on climate change-induced paralytic shellfish poisoning in Aleut communities, in which the Aleut communities were educated about the problem and trained to monitor for that toxin, which may be related to climate change.

During 2007: AIA undertook a project among coastal communities for the systematic collection of information about the environment, which may enhance community resilience under conditions of rapid environmental and social change.

3. Council of International Programmes

Special, 1989

I. Introduction

The aims of the Council of International Programmes are to promote international understanding through professional development and cross-cultural exchange.

II. Contributions to the work of the United Nations

Representatives of the Council attended briefings and other activities during this period.

A. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 2: In 2005, it worked with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to build capacity in selected rural schools in Jamaica, distributing hundreds of children's books, and together with the World Organization for Early Childhood Education organized workshops for school staff. In 2006, it continued that work, and in 2007 and 2008, it organized staff development activities and parent workshops for those rural schools, while continuing to distribute children's books.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

(a) Celebrated children's "Voices for Peace across the Globe" in April 2006, in New York City; (b) children of parents in missions to the United Nations, among others, sang and danced in a special programme in April 2007; (c) it also organized a speaker series to inform members about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Millennium Development Goals; (d) it participated in a UNICEF event on early childhood in September 2008; and (d) attended a speech on research into parent education programmes.

4. Generations United

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

Generations United, the oldest and largest organization of its kind, focuses solely on promoting intergenerational strategies, programmes and policies. Representing more than 70 million Americans in 100 international, national, state and local organizations, it advocates the mutual well-being of children, youth and older adults, while serving as a resource for educating policymakers and the public concerning the economic, social and personal imperatives of intergenerational cooperation. It produces publications, maintains a website and database and conducts expert trainings, while furnishing a forum for those working with children, youth and older adults.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

(a) Participated in the forty-fourth session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, in February 2006, in New York; (b) participated in the Civil Society Forum that examined issues for that session of the Commission and prepared the NGO declaration for the opening session; (c) helped plan and moderate a public seminar on migration in June 2006, in New York; (d) a seminar of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on human rights for young and old in September 2008, in Paris; (e) expert group meeting on intergenerational solidarity, in October 2007, in New York, the paper for which was subsequently published on the United Nations website and will be included in a United Nations publication; (f) annually participates in United Nations Day of Older Persons; and (g) organized an intergenerational photography exhibit.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

(a) Authored a chapter on intergenerational programmes and social inclusion of the elderly for a book published in English and Spanish, in 2007, in Spain; and (b) provided many international NGOs with technical assistance on ageing, including a conference in June 2006, in Melbourne, Australia; a conference, in August 2006, in Tokyo, coinciding with the launch of the Japan Intergenerational Unity Network; a symposium in June 2007, in St. Julian's, Malta; and a conference in May 2008, in Hamburg, Germany.

5. Hong Kong Women Professionals and Entrepreneurs Association

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

A. Aims and objectives of the organization

The Hong Kong Women Professionals and Entrepreneurs Association, a non-profit organization of Chinese women professionals and entrepreneurs, was established to develop a strong support network, create practical and innovative learning and business opportunities for themselves and others and promote high professional standards.

B. Changes in the organization

During the period 2005-2008, the Association formed an environmental committee to pursue an environmental protection agenda and it renamed its Business Start-up Committee the Social Enterprise and Business Facilitation Committee, expanding its role of helping needy women to also provide social enterprises in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China with training and facilitation.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

A. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Following the earthquake in Sichuan Province of China in 2008, the Association sponsored a training of trainers and children programme from May to September 2008 in partnership with the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong. The programme was implemented in two phases: post-trauma counselling of the children affected by the earthquake and a summer activities programme to restore normality to their lives and provide them with learning opportunities as their schools had been destroyed.

Goal 7: An environmental committee was formed in 2008 to build a knowledge base able to respond to the public consultation on air quality.

Goal 3: It organized a number of activities to promote women's equality: an award for outstanding women professionals and entrepreneurs, granted in 2005 and 2008, a triennial event in which successful women tell their own stories in order to inspire others.

B. Activities in support of global principles

The Association expanded its support of social enterprises starting in 2007 with two full-day training workshops for business managers of social enterprises, focusing on practical best practices for effective management in order to enhance profitability and sustainability. It also organized visits to social enterprises and continued to engage in educational exchange programmes, mainly with counterparts in China. In the previous year it had organized a study visit to southern China, before organizing a trip to Beijing and Chengde, also in 2007.

6. International Air Transport Association

Special, 1949

I. Introduction

Aims and objectives

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is a global trade association for hundreds of scheduled international airline members. The principal offices of IATA are in Geneva and Montreal, Canada, with regional and national offices around the world. Owing to its role in setting and regulating international standards, IATA has been accorded semi-diplomatic status by a number of Governments.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

As an NGO with special consultative status, IATA maintains regular relations with 13 United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, particularly the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and its regional civil aviation commissions. The cooperative links between the two organizations are very deep and detailed owing to the importance and scope of their work.

Even listing just the highlights would be too lengthy for the present report; however, a few specific examples of the Association's participation in major ICAO conferences and events would demonstrate their importance: (a) 36th session of the ICAO Assembly, in September 2007, Montreal, Canada, (b) General Assembly of the Arab Civil Aviation Commission, in May 2007, in Marrakech; (c) ICAO Global Symposium on Air Transport Liberalization, in September 2006, in Dubai; (d) IATA led the Industry Safety Strategy Group in drafting the Global Aviation Safety Roadmap, adopted by the ICAO Council in July 2007 as an integral part of the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan which was endorsed by the 35th ICAO Assembly in September 2007; (e) through its membership in the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel, IATA and ICAO continue to collaborate in the technical review and dissemination of guidance material relating to the safe transport of dangerous goods; (f) it contributes to modernizing the (Rome) Convention on Damage Caused by Foreign Aircraft to Third Parties on the Surface and the Convention on New and Emerging Threats; and (g) as an observer at the meetings of the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, IATA participates in working groups tasked with developing standards for the transport of dangerous goods in excepted quantities.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

(a) IATA participates as an observer at International Atomic Energy Agency Transport Safety Standards Committee meetings, and provided IAEA with consulting services in a series of workshops regarding the denial of shipments of radioactive materials in June 2007, in Montevideo; and in 2008, in Rome (May), in Arusha (June), in Beijing (June), and in Antananarivo (June); (b) IATA and ICAO collaborated to ensure that the airline industry's interests regarding radio

frequencies and telecommunications are considered in World Radio Conferences; and (c) the Association's Live Animals Regulations and Perishable Cargo Regulations have been adopted globally, as well as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme. These are but a few of the many global standards in which IATA has played a major and continuing role.

7. International Association of University Presidents

Special, 1993

I. Introduction

The International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) is an association of chief executive officers from institutions of higher education around the world. It offers a regular forum for such leaders and institutions to identify and discuss major issues and challenges in a global and cross-cultural context.

A. Aims and purposes

(a) Provide a global vision of higher education; strengthen the international mission of the institutions; (b) promote academic exchange and collaboration; (c) gain a hearing for the voice of educational leaders; (d) promote networking and collaboration among university leaders supporting sustainable development and promote peace and international understanding through education.

B. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

IAUP works with the United Nations Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace in New York and other places. (a) Its Partners for Peace Programme, in October 2005, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which was co-sponsored by Holy Family University, featured Muslim and Christian speakers from Palestine and a Jewish speaker from Israel reflecting on the conflict, and sharing experiences, opinions and hopes for peace; (b) IAUP and the United Nations Commission organized another such programme on African voices for peace, in March 2006, in South Africa; (c) IAUP and the Commission held annual spring meetings in April 2005 and 2007; (d) autumn meeting in December 2007; (e) XVth Triennial Conference of IAUP, in September and October, in Chile; (f) autumn meeting in December 2008 in New York, all of which meetings were held in cooperation with various universities and supported in part by UNESCO.